

Michigan State Fair Youth Livestock Auction 2003

The Michigan State Fair Youth Livestock Auction in Detroit was a success, according to Michigan Department of Agriculture (MDA) Director Dan Wyant. Wyant said the top steer, lamb and hog sold for a combined total of \$61,000. In fact, Wyant added, total 2003 auction sales grossed \$150,650.

"The Michigan State Fair livestock auction is a wonderful opportunity for young producers of these premium animals to raise funds for college and other needs, as well as generate a tremendous sense of accomplishment and pride in their hard work," Wyant said. "The 2003 corporate and private bidders deserve hearty thanks for their generous purchases of livestock judged to be the best in the state.

Prior successes of the livestock auction have dramatically increased youth participation at the Michigan State Fair. This year, there were over 300 youth competing in livestock events, and over 200 youth competed in skill-a-thon, events included a livestock quiz, showmanship and judging. A state-wide showmanship contest will be held on Thursday August 28, 2003 with 151 youth representing 41 counties.

The Michigan Youth Livestock Scholarship winners for 2003 are Jacob AcMoody of Coldwater, Nicole Dingman of Bellevue, Nicole M. Rebottaro Brighton, Bryce D. Slavik of Ashley, Scott Smalley of Ubly and Renee Diuble Thelen of Saline. The MYLSF also granted \$21,000 in educational awards to more than 110 youth livestock exhibitors in the skill-a-thon competition. Since 2000 the MYLSF has granted a total of \$95,000 in educational awards and scholarships. Overall, the livestock auction raised over \$36,000 for the scholarship fund through the implementation of a sales cap, and the sale of the best of category wines, champion cheese, milk and butter.

The 2003 auction was kicked off after the annual Governor's Luncheon on the fairgrounds. Governor Jennifer Granholm and Wyant served as floor "spotters" during the auction.

Purchasers and sale prices of the top animals included:

Grand Champion market steer, exhibited by Andy Depcinski of Cass City, purchased by the the Kroger Company for \$36,000.

Grand Champion market lamb, exhibited by David Williams of Cassopolis, purchased by Meijers, Inc., for \$15,000.

Grand Champion market hog, exhibited by Matt Gordeneer of Vermontville, purchased by the Kroger Company, for \$10,000.

Reserve Grand Champion market steer, exhibited by Katelyn Lewis of East Leroy, purchased by the Packerland Packing for \$8,000.

Reserve Grand Champion market lamb, exhibited by Jacob Patterson of Lapeer, purchased by the Wolverine Packing Co. for \$4,000.

Reserve Grand Champion market hog, exhibited by Leslie Toma, purchased by Kowalski Sausage for \$4,000.

Grand Champion pair of market hogs, exhibited by Matt Gordeneer of Vermontville, purchased by the Kowalski Sausage Co. for \$4,000.

Grand Champion pair of market lambs, exhibited by Dickinson of Montgomery, purchased by the Michigan Farm Bureau for \$4,100.

Grand Champion pair of market steers, exhibited by Michelle and Brent Dickinson of Montgomery, purchased by the Packerland Packing for \$10,500.

Reserve Grand Champion pair of market hogs, exhibited by Nathan Joostberns of Dorr, purchased by Danou Enterprizes for \$4,000.

Reserve Grand Champion pair of market lambs, exhibited by Lindsey Lungren of Sunfield, purchased by Binson Hospital Supplies for \$1,600.

Reserve Grand Champion pair of market steers, exhibited by Kyle Schrader of Tekonsha, purchased by Magna Entertainment for \$7,500

Also auctioned were the State Fair champion wines, butter, milk and cheese. The Best of Category Sparkling Wine sold for \$2,000 to Binson Hospital Supplies; the Best of Category White Wines sold for \$1,100 to Al Long Ford; while the Best of Category Red Wine were sold to Representative Judy Emmons and Representative Neal Nitz for \$1,000. Green Stone Farm Credit purchased the Grand Champion Butter for \$2,000, the Kroger Company Farm purchased the Grand Champion Milk for \$2,500 and the Grand Champion Cheese sold for \$2,000 to Danou Enterprizes.

MDA employees, participating in their eight auction, purchased three “spotlight” market lambs exhibited by Renee Smith of Remus for \$1,000, Amanda Dixon of Columbiaville for \$1,000 and Ashleigh Sonnenberg of Lambertville for \$1,000. Processing proceeds will be donated to the Food Bank Council of Michigan.

Packerland Packing and Kowalski Sausage Company were awarded the Governor's Gold Banner Award for contributions in excess of \$100,000 and the Governor's Loyal Buyer Awards were awarded to Al Long Ford and the Kroger Company for participating in at least five auctions

The Michigan State Fair, the nation's oldest fair, runs from Friday, August 15 through Labor Day, September 1. It is located at the corner of Eight Mile Road and Woodward Avenue in Detroit, just two miles from I-75, or three miles from I-696, or eight miles from I-94.

Oversight responsibility for the Michigan State Fair was returned to its agricultural roots at the Michigan Department of Agriculture two years ago. MDA is the official state agency charged with serving, promoting and protecting the food, agriculture and economic interests of the people of the State of Michigan. MDA programs serve all sectors of agriculture, which is Michigan's second-largest industry.